

*Not to be taken away.
Recommended by Mr. Niles*

The following Letter having been sent by an Anonymous Correspondent, to CHARLES STISTED, Esq. he takes the liberty of strongly recommending it to the Perusal of the Public.

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LETTER

ADDRESSED TO THE

INHABITANTS of GREAT BRITAIN,

SHewing THEM

THE DANGEROUS TENDENCY OF

LIBELLOUS PUBLICATIONS,

AND

GUARDING THEM AGAINST BEING IMPOSED UPON

BY THE

FALSE REPRESENTATIONS

SUCH WRITINGS CONTAIN.

I P S W I C H:

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A LETTER, &c.

MY BROTHER ENGLISHMEN,

WHILST such dangerous Books and Pamphlets as Mr. PAINE's and others have been dispersed and read throughout the Kingdom, for the purpose of disturbing its Peace---I wish to lay before you a few Considerations, in order to enable you to judge for yourselves, whether there is any real Cause for the dissatisfaction which such Writers are endeavouring to sow in your Minds: that you may be able to refute and to spurn at such false reasonings as they offer you for the worst of purposes.

They address you, in what they call the language of Patriotism; and with that sort of Sophistry, which blinds your Judgment, whilst it assails your reason: so that you are not aware of the Mischief their Writings contain, nor of the poison they are endeavouring to spread.

Allow yourselves only time to consider, that in this Kingdom, and at this moment, we are actually living under the best Constitution that ever was formed in any Country---that we have the wisest and best of Laws---and that we have a most excellent and good King upon the Throne, who was born and educated amongst us, and has

himself declared to us long ago, " that he glories in the name of Briton. "

Notwithstanding this, these Writers have told you, that you are shamefully imposed upon---that you are needlessly burthened with Taxes---that your Parliaments are corrupt and venal---that your King is stretching his Prerogative---and that you are becoming Slaves.

These Assertions you can yourselves disprove, if you will only reflect on the following Truths, of which, every Man may make himself a Judge.

In regard to Taxes, you know that no Nation can be supported without them; and that the principal parts of the Taxes in England, are collected for the Support of our Army and our Navy; and for the payment of the Interest of the National Debt; which is distributed amongst all ranks of People who have advanced their Money for the public Service, and who are by that very means enabled to pay their Tradesmen, their Servants, and their Labourers; and without which, neither the one nor the other could possibly subsist.

In England, we cannot be taxed at the pleasure of a King, or a Minister, as the people in France were; but only by Acts

of Parliament, framed by Representatives, whom we ourselves have chosen.---And in England, every Individual is obliged to pay his proportion; the Nobleman as well as the Peasant. Whereas, in France, the Taxes were levied on the inferior Ranks only, whilst their Nobles were ^{almost} ~~totally~~ excused---from whence you will clearly see the difference between their Condition and ours; and how much reason they had, justly to complain.

Every Nation must necessarily be taxed according to the Exigency of the Times.---In time of War, we should readily contribute our several Shares, in order to maintain the Honor and Dignity of the Nation; which have always been dear to every *Briton* ~~Englishman~~ who considers, that hereby he not only supports the credit of his Country, but at the same time eventually defends his own Property.

In time of Peace, we naturally hope that our Taxes should be lessened---and we have accordingly seen that ~~our great and able~~ Minister has actually lessened ~~them~~ the year past: and we are assured that ~~he~~ ^{been} intended to ~~have~~ lessened ~~them~~ still more, the Year ensuing; if the Machinations of these Incendiaries had not rendered it indispensably necessary to call out the Militia of the Kingdom, and to incur other conside-

rable Expences, of which we shall all feel the disagreeable Consequences; and shall therefore have cause to execrate the Proceedings of those wicked Men, instead of trying to support them.

We all feel the Excellency of our Constitution, and of our Laws, in the security they give to the Persons and the Property of every Individual in the Kingdom.---In England, the poor Man has an equal right with the Rich, to call upon the Laws for Redress: and the Peer must suffer for his Crimes, as well as the Beggar. Neither of them can be condemned unheard; nor without a *Jury* of his Country-men---and our Laws have provided such Relief for the Poor, of various kinds, as is not to be found in any other Country upon Earth.

Our Laws have moreover been framed with such consummate Wisdom, that even the King cannot violate them with Impunity, any more than his Subjects.

Under all these Advantages, our Trade and Manufactures flourish, beyond all former Example---and we are at this moment, the most prosperous Kingdom in Europe, and the Envy of all surrounding Nations.

Can any wise or considerate Man, then, be so inattentive to his own Happiness, as

to wish for a Revolution! or so blind, as not to see the base and wicked Arts, by which the Levellers and Republicans of the present day, are endeavouring to urge on our Country-men to their own Destruction!

Every man of common Sense, will perceive on the smallest Reflection, that these are the arts of DESPERATE MEN alone ---who are trying by the most deceitful means, to impose upon the ignorant and unwary, in order to excite Anarchy and Confusion in the Kingdom; that they may get the Government of it into their own hands, and triumph in its Ruin.---No honest Man would then be safe in his own Dwelling---The same Murders, Conflagrations, and Robberies, which have taken place in France, would be committed in England---Our fields would remain uncultivated---And famine, poverty, and universal Wretchedness must ensue.

My Country-men will see from what I have already mentioned, that the People in France had sufficient cause to be dissatisfied under ~~the Government of a Tyrant~~, and to wish to throw off the Yoke. *Their* King was a despotic Monarch--his Word was Law. He confined any Man in Prison for the smallest Offence, or for no offence, merely at his Pleasure. The Nobles were

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all Tyrants---And the Minister laid upon the People whatever Taxes he thought proper; which were exacted, by those who farmed them, with the severest rigour: by which means, the inferior ranks were suffering the utmost distress; whilst the Nobles were revelling in the greatest Extravagance and Luxury. These facts have been witnessed by every Man who has travelled in France, and have been the Subjects of their constant Declamation.

Let us then my Country-men! rejoice, that we have no such Evils to complain of in our happier Land: which the French have for *many many* Years, been accustomed to distinguish whenever *they* spoke of it, by this expressive Epithet, “* The blessed Country”---And *blessed* indeed we ought to think it, from the glorious Privileges which I have above enumerated: And to join with one Heart, in detesting and exposing the Doctrines of those DESPERATE MEN; and resolve, at the hazard of our Lives and Fortunes, to continue to ourselves, and to convey to our Posterity, the superlative Blessings we now enjoy.

IPSWICH,
Dec. 11, 1792.

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* La terre Genie.

